

## **Conflict Resolution between ATR and Treatment Centers**

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#### **Problem**

**Treatment centers and faith-based ATR providers do not have a good understanding of how to work together to help the client. Nobody wins in this situation:**

- **The State's ATR program is made ineffective**
- **The treatment center is threatened by the "religious invasion"**
- **The faith-based provider is frustrated by their dependence upon the treatment center's goodwill**
- **The client is the one who suffers from our inadequacies as "professionals"**

#### **Symptoms**

**Treatment centers have long based their treatment models on secular concepts and their only venture into spirituality (with few exceptions) has been the generic Higher Power of 12 step programs.**

**Faith-based groups have used almost no secular treatment information to help with substance abusers and have focused strictly on the spiritual dilemma and their specific spiritual solution.**

**This polarization can be understood better when the underlying modalities are considered. Treatment centers have an underlying consciousness that promotes compassion as their operating modality. Faith-based organizations, in turn, promote righteousness. The two can easily conflict because it would seem that they are "at odds" with one another.**

#### **Solutions**

**The primary solution is to have forums wherein the two groups mix and discuss the differences in their foundational approaches. Until now, the two have met separately and complained bitterly about one another's tactics, but have spent little time developing an understanding of how each modality benefits the client.**

**One of the most common areas where agreement might be reached is in the acceptance of the 12-step model as a healthy model for the client. Within this common area, the treatment center accepts whatever form of spirituality the client desires and the ATR provider can identify clients who have a compatible Higher Power so that they can freely engage the client in spiritual work.**